

United Nations Network on Migration Coordinator Briefing

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Statement delivered by Donald Cochrane, Minister Counsellor (Migration and Refugee Affairs)

Permanent Mission of Canada, Geneva

Good afternoon and thank you very much for giving me the floor to comment. I would like to thank Director General Vitorino for his remarks, and more importantly for his leadership over the course of the Network's existence. It is clear that the Network is living up to its envisaged purpose of tying together all of the disparate agencies that have at least some aspects of migration as part of their mandates. I would like to also thank the other presenters for their very interesting updates. I do not want to take a lot of time but I wanted to share a couple of key points from Canada's perspective.

Once again, Canada would like to express its sincere thanks to the Network for all of its efforts to support the implementation of the Compact, and we are encouraged to see the Network's development of tools and guidance that we believe create important exchange opportunities to advance GCM implementation. These tools, and indeed the success of the Network to date in supporting implementation under extremely challenging circumstances, demonstrate just what can be accomplished when Member States and the UN system work collaboratively towards a shared goal. Multilateralism can be a very powerful tool for member states, and it is hard to argue against improved coordination among UN agencies. The diversity of the objectives of the compact reflect the many touch points that migration has, and this is certainly reflected in the number of agencies that make up the Network.

The continued promotion of international cooperation, including through the promotion of the Compact, will help to ensure that migration occurs through regular pathways, while reducing irregular migration. This will help to guarantee that migrants can move safely and that their host societies can benefit from their presence. It will also ensure that "no one is left behind" in our collective post-pandemic recovery efforts, thus continuing progress towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

As Canada has emphasized previously, we would like to see the promotion of gender-responsive GCM implementation, which cuts across various GCM objectives, receive further emphasis as a thematic priority. Canada strongly supports efforts underway by the Network and other stakeholders to form a Gender Advisory Group to encourage the actualization of this guiding principle. We are also open to further collaboration on this topic with other member states to advance this principle.

Canada remains committed to the Compact's guiding principles and will continue to advocate for its implementation, including in its role as a so-called Champion Country. There are so many good stories that must be shared, and we look forward to our continued collaboration with the Network and with our many partners as we continue our journey down this road.

Thank you again for the opportunity to make these brief remarks.